

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

SUB A' >

1. A key fob comprising a housing enclosing electrical components and a battery supply with a plurality of actuation keys exposed in parts of said housing, said housing having a top surface with said plurality of keys in a key area of said top surface, said key fob further including a slidable shield attached to said housing and movable from a closed position covering said actuation keys to an open position where said keys are exposed for actuation, said shield in said open position being located on said top surface.

2. A key fob as claimed in claim 1 wherein said keys are located in a recessed area of said top surface.

3. A key fob as claimed in claim 1 wherein said actuation keys are marginally below said top surface and said top surface is generally rectangular in top view.

4. A key fob as claimed in claim 1 wherein said top surface has an area adjacent said key area and at least equal in size to said area such that said shield in said open position overlies said adjacent area.

SUB A' >

5. A key fob as claimed in claim 3 wherein said top surface is slightly curved across the width thereof and said curve is consistent in the length of the top surface.

6. A key fob as claimed in claim 1 wherein shield is movable across said top surface and in said closed position only a limited strip border area of said top surface is exposed between said actuation keys and a lower edge of said key fob and in said open position only a limited strip border area of said top surface is exposed between said shield and a top edge of said key fob.

7. A key fob as claimed in claim 6 wherein said covers at least 40% of said to surface.

8. A key fob as claimed in claim 7 wherein said plurality of keys include at least 4 keys.

9. A key fob as claimed in claim 1 wherein said housing on opposed sides thereof includes two slide tracks which cooperate with said shield member to retain said shield member on said key fob and accommodate the sliding movement of said shield between said open and said closed position.

10. A key fob as claimed in claim 9 wherein each slide track is an elongate recess and said shield member includes on each side thereof inwardly extending slide members which are received and retained in said elongate recesses.

11. A key fob as claimed in claim 10 wherein said each slide track and the respective slide member cooperate to retain said shield member in said open or closed position.

12. A key fob as claimed in claim 11 wherein said shield member has a gently curved upper surface and opposed side portions which extend downwardly and include said slide members.

13. A key fob as claimed in claim 12 wherein said gently curved upper surface of said shield member allows resilient flexing of said shield member and during flexing said side portions flex outwardly.

14. A key fob as claimed in claim 13 wherein said slide tracks include stationary cam members and said slide members when forced over said cam members cause said shield member to flex with said side portions moving outwardly.

15. A key fob as claimed in claim 14 wherein said cam members cooperate with recesses in said slide members to releasably lock said shield member in said open or closed position.

16. A key fob as claimed in claim 15 wherein each slide track includes 4 cam members and each slide member includes 2 recesses positioned for receiving 2 cam members in said open position and a different 2 cam members in the closed position.

17. A key fob as claimed in claim 9 wherein said housing is a two piece horizontally split housing with one piece of said split housing at an edge thereof having two top opening recesses either side of said key fob which are closed by the other housing and collectively form said slide tracks.

18. A key fob as claimed in claim 17 wherein said housing and said shield member are injection molded plastic.

19. A key fob as claimed in claim 1 wherein said shield member cooperates with said housing and includes a releasable lock arrangement maintaining said shield member in the closed position until released by a downward and forward force urging said shield member to move towards the open position.

20. A key fob as claimed in claim 19 wherein both said housing and said shield member include a gently curved top surface and said shield member has a snap fit slide relationship with said housing.

21. A key fob as claimed in claim 20 wherein said housing includes slide tracks on opposite sides of said housing which are closed at the ends thereof and said shield member includes downwardly and inwardly extending

slide members which are received and retained in said slide tracks.